

Wanderers' answer to their critics

Wycombe Wanderers 5, Maidenhead United 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS slammed five goals to answer criticisms levelled against their mid-week football, when they completely destroyed Athenian Premier Division club Maidenhead United on Tuesday evening. This was Wanderers' first home win in the Premier Mid-week Floodlight League and a memorable one.

Playing into the driving sleet and wind Maidenhead were at a disadvantage from the start. They also had the added trouble of goalkeeper Spittle still suffering from a thigh injury after their Saturday game with Walton and Hersham.

Wanderers however never let the Athenians into the game and held possession for almost the whole match.

John Delaney, right back in form after his recent injury, scored the first goal. He gathered the ball on the half way line, and set off down the wing and beating a full back for sheer speed he put over a high ball towards goal. Spittle completely misjudged it and it dipped into goal.

In a series of three corners Delaney had a good header blocked on the line, and only a brave dive by Spittle stopped the elusive Anthony from scoring.

Poor Kevin O'Brien didn't have a single shot to save in the first half and spent most of his time running round the penalty area trying to keep warm!

Two minutes after half time, Keith Searle kept up his record of scoring in every game at Loakes Park by latching onto a Baker through ball to nod past the 'keeper.

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During the second half, Wanderers deprived the Athenians of possession completely and turned on some superb football that warmed the meagre band of supporters.

After a further six minutes Wanderers went further when Geoff Anthony scored. Maidenhead's number three, Henesey was at fault. His back headed to the 'keeper fell short and Geoff Anthony was quick to exploit the error. Henesey raced back to try and clear but only succeeded in helping the ball into the net.

Maidenhead brought on Dave Woolley after 17 minutes to try and get more from the attack, but the move failed.

Only Spittle's outstretched boot saved Maidenhead from a Keith Searle shot, but in the 22nd minute Wycombe produced a well rehearsed goal for number four.

John Delaney came up to take the free kick on the edge of the Maidenhead "box". He passed a short ball to Barry Baker who in turn left it for Keith Blunt, who shot hard and true for goal, the ball rocketing in past the unsighted 'keeper.

Vince Faulkner moved back to number four and John Delaney came up in his place after 20 minutes and Ian Rundle moved to centre half. It was a measure of Wycombe's confidence, that they were able to bring Delaney up into attack and not worry about the defence.

Geoff Anthony scored Wanderers' fifth and final goal.

After this goal Anthony went off, having done enough damage, and Viv Busby took his place. Geoff got a great cheer from the crowd, and it was thoroughly deserved.